

**Claim Amendments**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Claims 1-125 (cancelled).**

126. (new) A method for increasing elastin content in a region of skin of a subject, the method comprising applying topically a composition consisting essentially of one or more zinc-containing components in admixture with a dermatologically or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an elastin-increasing effective amount, to the region of skin of the subject,

wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is selected from the group consisting of zinc acetate, ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate, carbonate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, citrate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, gluconate, halides, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, maleate, malonate, metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, nitrate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phenolsulfonate, phosphate, picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, salicylate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, titanate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof,

wherein zinc is present in the composition at a concentration that increases elastin without causing epidermal sloughing and irritation due to zinc, and

wherein the elastin content in the region of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat wrinkles.

127. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc carbonate.
128. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc citrate.
129. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
130. (new) The method according to claim 127, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
131. (new) The method according to claim 128, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
132. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.

133. (new) The method according to claim 127, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
134. (new) The method according to claim 128, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
135. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and the composition is applied to a site on the skin of the subject.
136. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the composition is applied to one or more sites selected from the group consisting of the face, breasts, buttocks, neck, legs, arms, torso, and furrows or wrinkles in the face, hands or neck.
137. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the composition comprises one or more zinc chelates.
138. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and further comprises a moisturizer.
139. (new) A method for increasing elastin content a region of skin of a subject, said method comprising applying a composition that comprises one or more zinc-containing components to the region of skin of the subject,

wherein zinc is present in the composition at a concentration that increases elastin without causing epidermal sloughing and irritation due to zinc;

wherein said one or more zinc-containing components is selected from the group consisting of zinc acetate, ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate, carbonate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, citrate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, gluconate, halides, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, maleate, malonate, metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, nitrate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phenolsulfonate, phosphate, picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, salicylate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, titanate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof, and

wherein the elastin content in the region of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat wrinkles.

140. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc carbonate.
141. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc citrate.

142. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
143. (new) The method according to claim 140, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
144. (new) The method according to claim 141, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
145. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
146. (new) The method according to claim 140, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
147. (new) The method according to claim 141, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
148. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and the composition is applied to a site on the skin of the subject.

149. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the composition is applied to one or more sites selected from the group consisting of the face, breasts, buttocks, neck, legs, arms, torso, and furrows or wrinkles in the face, hands or neck.
150. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the composition comprises one or more zinc chelates.
151. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the composition comprises zinc acetate.
152. (new) A method for increasing elastin in an area of skin of a subject, wherein said method comprises
- topically applying a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc-comprising formulation to said area of skin, wherein said formulation comprises zinc at a concentration that increases elastin without causing epidermal sloughing and irritation due to zinc;
- wherein said zinc in said formulation is derived from any member of the group consisting of zinc acetate, ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate, carbonate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, citrate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, gluconate, halides, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, malcate, malonate, metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, nitrate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phenolsulfonate, phosphate,

picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, salicylate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, titanate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof,

wherein the elastin content in the area of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat wrinkles.

153. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc carbonate.
154. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc citrate.
155. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
156. (new) The method according to claim 153, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.
157. (new) The method according to claim 154, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from about 1.0 pM to about 900  $\mu$ M.

158. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
159. (new) The method according to claim 153, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
160. (new) The method according to claim 154, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
161. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and the composition is applied to a site on the skin of the subject.
162. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the composition is applied to one or more sites selected from the group consisting of the face, breasts, buttocks, neck, legs, arms, torso, and furrows or wrinkles in the face, hands or neck.
163. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the composition comprises one or more zinc chelates.
164. (new) The method according to claim 152, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and further comprises a moisturizer.